

QUEEN RESOLVES TO SEND SOLDIERS TO FRANCE
[1574]

are to be only 270, deducting the dead pays
after the usual
rate of 10 in the hundred, to be coated and armed
and
embarked at Rye, similarly another 300 from
Kent to be
embarked at Dover on the 28th of the month

10th February NEWS OF ROUEN

Two lackeys of Monsieur Vilhers, Governor of
Rouen, taken
returning from the Duke of Parma, who has now
advanced to
Cambray, declare that he would succour Rouen
or force the
levying of the siege

21st February THOMAS PORMORT, A JESUIT,
EXECUTED

Thomas Pormort, a seminary priest, was
executed for high
treason This Pormort, being lodged in the house
of Topcliffe
after his arrest in October 1591, had been pressed
very straightly
to give information He declared that in the course
of these
examinations Topcliffe, hoping to persuade him to
recant, used
very lewd and familiar speeches to him to show his
favour with
the Queen Topcliffe said that all the Stanleys in
England were
to be suspected as traitors, he himself was so
familiar with Her
Majesty that he hath very secret dealing with her,
having not
only seen her legs and knees but felt her belly,
saying to her that
it was the softest belly of any womankind She
had said unto
him, * Be not these the arms, legs and body of
King Henry ?
to which he answered ' Yea' She gave him for a
favour a
white linen hose wrought with white silk He said
that he was
so familiar with her that when he pleased to speak
with her he
might take her away from any company, and that
she was as
pleasant with anyone that she loved The
Archbishop of
Canterbury, he declared, was a fitter councillor in
the kitchen
among wenches than in a Prince's Court, as for

Justice Young,
he would hang the Archbishop and three hundred
more if they
were in his hands

At the execution Pormort was forced to stand
m his shirt
almost two hours on a very cold day while Topcliffe
pressed him
to deny these words , but he would not

zyi February A LITIGIOUS FELLOW

The magistrates of Essex are directed to look
into the case of
one, John Feltwell, of Great Wendon This man, a
very con-
tentious person, cited certain inhabitants of the
parish into the